STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BETTY T. YEE
California State Controller

STATE CONTROLLER'S OFFICE PERSONNEL/PAYROLL SERVICES DIVISION P. O. BOX 942850 Sacramento, CA 94250-5878

DATE: May 31, 2017 PAYROLL LETTER #17-007 (Civil Service Only)

TO: All Agencies in the Uniform State Payroll System

FROM: Debra Spellman, Chief

Personnel/Payroll Services Division

# RE: 2017 EXCLUDED EMPLOYEE LEAVE BUY-BACK PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT

This Payroll Letter provides information on how to process payments for the 2017 Excluded Employee Leave Buy-Back Program Enhancement. For details of this program, please reference CalHR's Human Resources Manual Section 2104 at <a href="http://hrmanual.calhr.ca.gov/Home/ManualItem/2104">http://hrmanual.calhr.ca.gov/Home/ManualItem/2104</a>.

Departments electing to participate must submit requests beginning June 01, 2017 and no later than June 27, 2017. Per CalHR, leave transfer amounts must be charged to the fiscal year 2016-2017 and issue dated by June 28, 2017.

The computed gross amount is based on the employee's hourly salary rate multiplied by the number of buy-back hours.

For employees that receive pay differentials each pay differential should be reviewed. If the pay differential indicates "yes" to "lump sum vacation" or "lump sum extra" the pay differential amount shall be included when calculating the eligible employee's hourly salary rate for purposes of the buy-back.

Refer to CalHR's website at <a href="http://www.calhr.ca.gov/state-hr-professionals/Pages/pay-differentials.aspx">http://www.calhr.ca.gov/state-hr-professionals/Pages/pay-differentials.aspx</a> for pay differential information. If the employee participates in the Voluntary Personal Leave Program (VPLP), the VPLP amount must be included when calculating the hourly rate for purposes of the buy-back.

#### **TAXES**

The computed gross amounts are subject to federal and state income tax withholdings, Social Security, State Disability Insurance, and Medicare tax withholdings where applicable. The computed gross amounts are NOT subject to retirement. The tax rates are as follows:

25% Federal Tax (flat rate)

6.6% State Tax (flat rate)

6.2% Social Security (if applicable)

0.9% State Disability Insurance (if applicable)

1.45% Medicare (if applicable) **OR** 

2.35% Medicare for wages over \$200,000 (if applicable)

### PROCESSING LEAVE HOURS FOR TRANSFER TO SAVINGS PLUS

Submit all requests via the PIP System. Use form STD. 671, Miscellaneous Payroll/Leave Actions to document the information to enter into the PIP System and keep forms for department records. Please refer below for form STD. 671 completion instructions.

Use the following Earnings IDs to request leave hours to transfer to Savings Plus. These Earnings IDs will not automatically update CLAS.

PAYMENT REQUEST	EARNINGS ID
Vacation Annual Leave transfer to 401(k)	9LV1
Vacation Annual Leave transfer to 457(b)	9LV2
Vacation Annual Leave transfer to 401(k) Roth	9LV3
Vacation Annual Leave transfer to 457(b) Roth	9LV4

Before keying via PIP, complete form STD. 671, items 1-3, 15-17, and 19-21 as follows:

ITEM NUMBER(S)	ITEM NAME	<b>ACTION</b>
1-3	Pay Period	Complete
15	Earnings ID	Complete
16	Days	Blank
17	Hrs/Hdths	Blank
19	Hourly Rate	Blank
20	WWG/FLSA	Blank
21	Computed Gross	Complete

#### FORM STD. 674 PAYMENT REQUESTS

If an employee is off pay status during June 2017, pay must be requested via form STD. 674. Refer to PPM Section G 105 for form STD. 674 completion instructions.

## CALIFORNIA LEAVE ACCOUNTING SYSTEM (CLAS) USERS

Reference Leave Accounting Letters 17-001, 17-003, and 17-004 at <a href="http://www.sco.ca.gov/ppsd\_leave\_acct\_letters\_2017.html">http://www.sco.ca.gov/ppsd\_leave\_acct\_letters\_2017.html</a> to update CLAS leave records.

Note: The leave transfer will not reflect hours paid. The leave transfer will reflect as a payment with the net amount that will be transferred to Saving Plus on the payroll outputs [i.e., warrant register, Payroll On-Line Information System (POIS)].

The employee's earnings statement will reflect a zero net (\$0.00) with the deduction description for the Saving Plus account.

Below is an example of the Payment Detail screen and Earnings Statement.

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SOC SEC 62.00	MEDICARE 14.50		

Please direct questions regarding leave buy-back payments to the Customer Contact Center at (916) 372-7200. Questions regarding CLAS should be directed to the CLAS Liaison at (916) 327-0756.

DS:AB:SACS